

SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2011-12 ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Formed fall 2010, Sutton's Academic Committee identifies academic competitions, and prepares and supports our students as they participate in-school; advance locally, regionally, nationally and/or internationally. The committee's goal includes: hone advancing skills, stretch creativity and problem solving, and enhance team dynamics while competing at various levels. For example, Sutton's 2009-10 Odyssey of the Mind team ranked fifth in the OM World Competition. (2010-11 team also advanced to World though unable to attend.) For 2010-11, an impressive number of students and teams rated and ranked with extraordinary performances – and trophies! See the Sutton website “Academic Competitions” link on the first page for more detailed, continually updated information from 2010-2011 including websites, contact information, etc. The bar raises and, proudly, our students have risen as well, therefore:

Volunteers of all levels continually needed and appreciated! Students and parents, please review for your interest in participating.

Please see the online weekly Sutton Source newsletters for updates and details. Each competition's launch varies throughout the year.

COUGAR LEGO ROBOTIC LEAGUE - 6th-8th GRADES - Teaches an appreciation for math, science, technology and engineering. Robotics is cutting-edge technology infusing real world engineering applications. The club will promote teamwork and competition while enhancing critical thinking skills. In addition, the club will provide a viable opportunity to reward education and sportsmanship. Additionally, the Robotics curriculum is directly related to Georgia Technology standards. **REQUIREMENTS:** Student commitment, application and membership fee. **COST:** Membership dues: \$20 (CASH ONLY). **MEETINGS:** Every other Wednesday 7:30 - 8:30am or 4:00 - 5:00 @: Mrs. Chase' Business Lab-room 42. **CONTACT:** Mrs. Chase at khaynes@atlanta.k12.ga.us **DEADLINE: September 12, 2011 for application and membership fee.** **Tentative start date is Sept 21, 2011** We are looking to have 5 teams of 3 students for a total of 15 students. As we receive more funding and support, we will recruit more members. Hurry and secure your spot.

DEBATE - 6th-8th GRADES – 2009-10 newly reformed Sutton Debate Team sprinted dashing with a dedicated core of award winning debaters. Our team competes with many other local schools in the Atlanta Urban Debate League in a series of weekend events October-February.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA – 6th-8th GRADES – FBLA is a professional student organization, dedicated to making today's middle school students tomorrow's leaders. Through leadership opportunities, academic competitions, conferences, and social activities, FBLA will not only make the middle school years memorable, but also prepare members for the world of work in the most innovative ways. FBLA has three main aspects: **Social:** where members get to know each other and have fun; **Professional:** where members learn new things about business, attend conferences, and work on job skills; and **Community Service:** where members give back to the community. **MEMBERSHIP:** Dues \$15 (CASH ONLY) - All students should return membership application and fee to Mrs. Chase in room 42 by October 7, 2011.

GEOGRAPHY BEE – 6th-8th GRADES - The Sutton Geography Bee usually occurs in early January, with prep/club meetings throughout fall. The winner of the Sutton Geography Bee and runner up take a written qualifying exam provided by the National Geographic-their answer sheet is sent to the National Geographic. This test determines the top scoring one hundred students in each state who are invited to compete at the state-level competition. The Georgia State Geography Bee will usually occur in early April at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, GA. The winner of the Georgia Geography Bee will be eligible to compete in the National Geography Bee in the end of May at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, DC. Students compete at the National Geography Bee for scholarships for \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000.

MATH ONE FAIR – 8th Grade - part of the One Fair of APS. The 8th grade advanced math classes participate. Guidelines are given by the teachers. Students research a math-related question and prepare a report and display. They also must be able to explain their work.

SIGMA MATH - 6th-8th GRADES: A competition in which students compete at mathematical problem solving. Groups of students for each grade assemble periodically through the year during the school day for about an hour and solve problems. There are winners for the school and the first competition is coming up in early November.

MATHCOUNTS - 6th-8th GRADES: A competition for the very best math students at Sutton. This program will start sometime towards the end of November. Typically, five to eight students are selected and compete with other schools in APS with the possibility of moving on to a state competition and beyond.

MATHLEAGUE - 6th-8th GRADES: A fun math club open to all.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND – 6TH-8TH GRADES Odyssey of the Mind www.odysseyofthemind.com, www.georgiaodyssey.org is parent-driven educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students. Teams of 5 -7 members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL – 6th-8th Grades - How fast can you press the button? Do you think it would be cool to compete in a quiz show like the ones on TV? Do you love to read? Yes?! Then, consider trying out for the prestigious Sutton Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Team! Participants should review the book list (all are Georgia Children's Book Award Nominees) and commit to reading at least 5 books by end of November in preparation for the Jan 28/Feb 5 events. **Kick-off meeting is Friday, Sept 16 at 3:30.** In the meanwhile, look over the book list and start reading! <http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/hrrb/middlebooklist.html> Interested?? Please contact Coach Patti George at patgeorge@atlanta.k12.ga.us and parent volunteer, Hillary Yarmowich hsyarmo@bellsouth.net

SCIENCE ONE FAIR – 7TH GRADE - The Science Fair Club is geared toward budding scientists who crave to learn how our world works. Centered on the science fair project, students who join this club will follow the steps of the scientific method as they design and execute an experiment in an effort to explain a question that they have posed. Students will research topics that interest them and then present their findings in a display, a written paper, and an oral explanation. The final projects are due for the school fair late November. Winners will progress to the SRT fair in the first week of December. Projects that are chosen at level will then compete at the SRT 4 level in January, with the opportunity to move to the regional state and even national level.

SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR – 6TH GRADE – Student projects develop research and conclusions about the study of people and their relationships to their physical and social environment. The Georgia Social Studies Fair leads students, through competition, to learn, practice, and perfect research processes. Social Studies is a diverse discipline that covers many subject areas including geography, history, political science, economics, anthropology, archeology, law, philosophy, psychology, religion and sociology. This integrated curriculum enables educators to help students develop their ability to make informed decisions for the public good and better understand world affairs. In preliminary competition 3 students are selected to advance to the regional fair. Judges at the regional fairs select the sixteen best projects to advance to the state fair.

SPELLING BEE - 6-8th Grades – Throughout fall, Sutton Language Arts teachers hold grade level spelling bees to determine the top 10-12 spellers per grade. These 30+ students will attend practice sessions until the mid-January school-wide Championship Spelling Bee. Three finalist advance to the district competition, etc.

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERS, SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE AND BETA are competitions under consideration. If there is interest, a parent volunteer must coordinate and secure teacher liaison – and will receive instructions, guidelines, parameters and full support from the Academic Committee. Other competitions may be considered as well.

Let the races begin! Questions, volunteering, please contact Academic Committee Co-chairs:
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